

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The applicant and his representative have fully considered the Office Action of June 20, 2006 and offer the above amendments in conjunction with these remarks. Reconsideration of claims 1, 2 and 5 is respectfully requested in light thereof. Claims 7 and 8 had depended from claim 1 and should not have been indicated as withdrawn in the amendment filed May 5, 2006. They have been re-introduced as new claims 25 and 26. Consideration of claims 1, 2, 5, 25 and 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has again been amended to recite a particular embodiment of the present invention not found in any known prior art. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the embodiment wherein the receiver opening (in its at-rest position) is sized to have a smaller diameter than the outer diameter of the barrel or barrel extension which is to be anchored in the receiver. This embodiment is disclosed in the current specification at page 8, lines 8-19, and page 8, line 25, to page 9, line 11, in conjunction with the figures. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the front recess of the receiver has "an at-rest diameter dimension smaller than the outer diameter dimension of the barrel or barrel extension which it is sized to receive."

This aspect of the present invention is disclosed as beneficial because during manufacture or assembly of the firearm, the claimed receiver can be enlarged to allow insertion of the "over-sized" barrel or barrel extension, after which the force can be removed such that the receiver attempts to return to its at-rest position and thereby clamps the barrel or barrel extension in place. Note the description in the specification beginning at page 8, line 15, "a mechanical leverage can be applied to the sides of the receiver that are separated by slit 125 and which form front recess 122 so as to pry them apart and allow the insertion of a barrel or barrel extension. When the prying force is removed, the sides can return and clamp the barrel or barrel extension into place." The disclosure also contemplates the inclusion of using heat to allow receiver expansion and subsequent barrel or barrel extension insertion, whereby cooling allows the receiver to reduce in dimension toward to its original dimension and thereby clamp the barrel or barrel extension in place. *Id.*

The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this embodiment. It is silent as to any dimensional relationship used to establish a connection between the barrel and receiver. Indeed, both references require some sort of additional clamping mechanism to secure the barrel to the receiver. CA 925334 to Perrine discloses the use of screws 25A and flange 17 "to

secure the barrel 15" in its receiver. U.S. Patent No. 3,711,980 to Palama discloses the use of "screw 31" to affix the barrel to the receiver bore. There is no disclosure in these, or any other known, references, which teaches or suggests that which is claimed in claim 1.

As to the examiner's assertion in the Office Action of June 20, 2006 that the "applicant should have been more specific as to what "dimension" or "outer dimension" is being referred to," the applicant submits that such specificity is now provided. For the sake of the record, however, the applicant submits that the additional specificity is unwarranted as the specification and figures of the current application made very clear the dimension referred to in the earlier claim form. Specifically, the specification states that the receiver's front recess can "be smaller than the outer dimension of the barrel or barrel extension, in which case it can be mechanically...expanded to allow the insertion of a barrel or barrel extension *into the front recess* and allowed to return to its at-rest position and thereby anchor the barrel or barrel extension in place with respect to the receiver." Page 8, lines 8-12. (emphasis added). This passage is made all the clearer by viewing Figs. 1-5. An argument that this objective could be achieved by mechanically expanding "longitudinal" dimensions of anything seems, at the least, untenable. The specification also states that in such an embodiment, "adequate force is achieved *through compression* to hold the barrel in place." Page 9, lines 6-7. How longitudinal compressive forces could be used to hold the barrel in place with any embodiment shown or described is unfathomable. It is further noted that the Examiner's reading of the claim filed May 5, 2006, that the barrel have an "outer longitudinal dimension" at least suggests that the Examiner thinks the barrel would have an "inner" longitudinal dimension. The applicant is at a loss to understand how a gun barrel can have an inner longitudinal dimension.

In any event, the amendment to claim 1 is believed to clear up any confusion by the Examiner as to what has been claimed by the applicant.


Moreover, for at least the reasons set forth above, in conjunction with the amendment to claim 1, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Because claims 2, 5, 25 and 26 all depend from claim 1, they too are in condition for allowance for at least the same reason.

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A notice of allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 25 and 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jonathan H. Spadt, Reg. No. 45,122  
Attorney for Applicant

JHS/jal

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P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
(610) 407-0700

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Juli Lawrence